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SENATE BILL 6797

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

Read first time 01/24/2006. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington state employee disaster  
2 recovery task force; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington state  
5 employees impacted by disasters caused by all hazards, whether natural,  
6 technological, or human caused, can be greatly helped by effective  
7 support from their employer. There are many opportunities in which an  
8 employer can provide support, including employer to employee, employer-  
9 coordinated employee to employee, and employer in conjunction with or  
10 on behalf of their impacted employees to local governments and  
11 charitable organizations. Washington state may be able to  
12 significantly enhance disaster recovery plans by reviewing plans put  
13 together by businesses in Washington state.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state employee disaster  
15 recovery task force is established.

16 (2) The task force is composed of the following members:

17 (a) The director of the department of community, trade, and  
18 economic development or the director's designee;

1 (b) The director of the Washington state military department or the  
2 director's designee;

3 (c) The governor or the governor's designee;

4 (d) A representative of the Washington state federation of state  
5 employees; and

6 (e) The director of the department of personnel or the director's  
7 designee.

8 (3) The task force shall convene by July 1, 2006. Upon convening,  
9 the task force shall select a chair to preside over task force meetings  
10 and a vice-chair to preside in the chair's absence.

11 (4) Staff to the task force must be provided by the department of  
12 community, trade, and economic development. Upon request by the task  
13 force, any state agency must provide information within the scope of  
14 the task force's work.

15 (5) Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for travel  
16 expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington state employee disaster  
18 recovery task force shall, upon convening, examine the findings and  
19 recommendations of the Weyerhaeuser handbook "Hurricane Katrina  
20 Rebuilding a Community: An Employer's Guide to Assisting Employees"  
21 and all other information that may be pertinent to disaster recovery  
22 for Washington state employees. The task force shall report its  
23 findings to the relevant committees of the legislature that deal with  
24 state and local government issues by December 1, 2006.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The Washington state employee disaster  
26 recovery task force and its powers and duties terminate June 30, 2007.

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